

Application No. 10/691,914

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method ~~as defined in claim 1,~~ for setting a clearance between a sliding member and a guide member, comprising the steps of:

determining the clearance, wherein the step of determining the clearance comprises reciprocally moving the sliding member in a direction intersecting the clearance, measuring an acceleration of the sliding member in time series, determining a special time period from changes of the measured acceleration and using the time period as a representative of the clearance;

changing the clearance by utilizing a working means; and

stopping the working means when the determined clearance reaches a predetermined target clearance.

Application No. 10/691,914

3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the special time period corresponds to a time period between a time when the sliding member contacts the guide member and a time when the sliding member again contacts the guide member.

4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the sliding member is received in a guide groove of the guide member, and wherein the special time period corresponds to a time period between a time when a center line of the sliding member aligns with a centerline of the guide groove of the guide member and a time when the center line of the sliding member again aligns with the centerline of the groove.

5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the special time period comprises a desired time period obtained from a graph of the measured acceleration against time

6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the graph includes a fixed portion and a variable portion, and wherein the time period is defined as a time difference between a first time in the variable portion and a second time in the fixed portion.

7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the first time corresponds to a time when the variable portion is peaked, and wherein the second time corresponds to a time when the fixed waveform portion is first reversed after the first time.

Application No. 10/691,914

8. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein the step of changing the clearance comprises reducing the clearance.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the step of reducing the clearance is performed by pressing the guide member.

10 – 13. (Canceled).